

Apterous male: Pronotum a little broader than long, rounded behind. Last dorsal segment of abdomen truncate at apex, last ventral segment arcuately emarginate at apex. First genital segment ferruginous beneath at the base. Posterior, femora very strongly incrassate, not reaching the tip of the apical genital segment spined beneath from the apex to a little beyond the middle, the first spine (near the middle) the longest, the following gradually diminishing in length toward the apex. Posterior tibiae straight, finely denticulate beneath down their whole length, without large teeth, the teeth of the middle third slightly longer, the apical third slightly narrower than the rest. Length, 4 mm.

Locality: Nicaragua (Granada).

Allied to *Rh. femoralis* Champ., but the antennae are differently constructed; the venter is not ridged in the middle; the posterior tibiae have no large teeth, etc.

NOTE ON THE HABITS OF LIOMYRMEX.

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The ant genus *Liomyrmex* comprises four described species, *cæcus* F. Smith, *gestroi* Emery, *aurianus* Emery and *carinatus* Stitz, all from New Guinea, except *aurianus*, which has been taken hitherto only on the island of Tenasserim, off the coast of Burmah. *L. carinatus* and *gestroi* are known only from female specimens, the other two species only from workers. The complete absence of eyes in the latter phase and its testaceous coloration show that these ants must be decidedly hypogæic, but no account of their habits has been published.

Recently Prof. C. F. Baker has sent me from Mt. Makiling, on the island of Luzon, Philippines, several worker specimens, which, except in their slightly smaller size, agree perfectly with Emery's description of the Burmese *L. aurianus* (Ann. Mus. Civ. Genova, XXVII, 1889, p. 504). Prof. Baker states in his letter that these ants were found in the forest, "abundant with termites—living in the same chambers with these in entire amity." The termites, of which a number were included in the same vial with the *Liomyrmex*, are workers and soldiers of *Termes* (*Macrotermes*) *gilvus* Hagen, which is widely distributed in the East Indies (Singapore, Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Philippines, etc.). This must be a formidable species, for the larger soldiers measure nearly 10 mm. and are furnished with acute and powerful jaws.

Prof. Baker's observations leave no doubt that the species of *Liomyrmex* are true termitophiles and suggest that their relations to the termites are more intimate than those of the species of *Carebara*, *Aëromyrma*, *Erebomyrma*, etc., which seem to be thief-ants, living in chambers of their own in the solid masonry of the termitaria and feeding surreptitiously on the termites and their brood.

THE PHORID GENUS *PLATYPHORA* IN AMERICA.

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In 1877 Verrall described from England a peculiar species of Phoridae for which he erected the genus *Platyphora*, calling the insect *P. lubbocki* in honor of its discoverer, Sir John Lubbock, who had found it in an ant nest. Although Verrall's description has often been quoted, no further observations on this genus appeared till 1912, when Becker described as *Psalidesma pyrenaicum* an European form which he later ascertained was congeneric with *Platyphora lubbocki*, although specifically distinct. Becker has figured and carefully described this form and by comparison of a drawing of Verrall's type, obtained from Collin, has been able accurately to characterize the genus. Since this, Collin has published a figure of *P. lubbocki* and noted its occurrence in other parts of England.

From Becker's account I have been able to place in *Platyphora* two American species which have been in my collection for a number of years, that I had considered as probably representing a new genus. The two American forms differ from *P. lubbocki* only in minor characters, but are distinguished from *P. pyrenaica* by the third vein being bristly and distinctly forked at apex. All are so similar, however, that there can be no question that all should form a single genus.

Platyphora Verrall.

- 1877. Journ. Linn. Soc., London, Zoöl., vol. 13, p. 259.
- 1901. Becker, Abh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien., vol. 1, p. 88.
- 1903. Brues, Trans. Amer. Ent. Soc., vol. 29, p. 386.
- 1906. Brues, Genera Insectorum, fasc. 44, p. 13.
- 1908. Enderlein. Zoöl. Jahrb. Abth. f. Syst., vol. 27, p. 148.
- 1910. Malloch, Ann. Scottish Nat. Hist., p. 17.